

**From the Translator's Desk**  
**Burton Raffel Introduces *Beowulf***

**DIRECTIONS:** *Use the space provided to answer the questions.*

1. According to Burton Raffel, who or what drives the plot of *Beowulf*?

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2. What are two magical qualities that the hero Beowulf possesses?

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3. What are three ways that Beowulf's name tells us that he is no mere human being?

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4. According to Raffel, how does the author of *Beowulf* create suspense at the start of the poem?

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5. Why does Grendel's mother enter the narrative?

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6. According to Raffel, how does the fire-breathing dragon contrast with a good king like Beowulf?

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7. What arguments does Raffel use to support his claim that *Beowulf* is "very much an Old Testament poem"? Do you find these arguments persuasive? Why or why not?

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